

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 H-02 OMB-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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OPS/60 - ADM. VANNOY

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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USLOSACLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T STATE 121281

C O R R E C T E D COPY (OMISSION OF LINE 6 PARA 3)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: CY 1973 US NAVY COMMITMENT TO NATO

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED A REDUCTION IN OUR CY 1973

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NAVY COMMITMENT TO NATO. THE REDUCTIONS WILL AFFECT 36 OUT OF 252 SHIPS AND SPECIFICALLY WILL INCLUDE 3 DESTROYER ESCORTS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO SACEUR; 9 SUBMARINES AND 15 DESTROYER TYPES IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO SACLANT ALONG WITH 9 MORE DESTROYER TYPES IN A LESSER AVAILABILITY STATUS EARMARKED TO SACLANT.

2. TO AVOID AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR EFFORTS TO PRESS FOR ALLIED FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND A MORE EQUITABLE BURDEN SHARING ARRANGEMENT, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAKE A PARTICULAR EFFORT TO EXPLAIN TO OUR ALLIES THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF OUR NAVAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR NATO BRIEFINGS A TEAM HEADED BY A FOUR STAR ADMIRAL WHICH WILL PRESENT AN ANALYSIS OF OUR NAVAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND THE ROLE THESE REDUCTIONS PLAY IN THAT PROGRAM.

3. PRIOR TO INITIATION OF OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO YOU SHOULD APPROACH SYG LUNS, INFORM HIM OF OUR PROPOSALS, AND REQUEST HIS ASSISTANCE IN DEVISING THE MOST POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE SCENARIO BY WHICH THE DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT. WE WOULD ENVISAGE A NOTIFICATION BY YOU TO THE DPC. PERHAPS THIS WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THE BRIEFING TEAM TO PRESENT AN ANALYSIS OF OUR PROGRAM FOR THE DPC, AND THEN PROVIDE SUBSEQUENT BRIEFINGS FOR THENATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE WITH THE NORMAL SUBMISSION AND DISCUSSION OF DPQ-73 AND CULMINATE AT THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETING.

FYI. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT REDUCTIONS WILL COMMENCE ON 31 JULY 73; OUR CASE MUST REST ON IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR COMMITMENTS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE END FYI.

4. THE REDUCTIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY ON THE BASIS OF SEVERAL FACTORS: A. SHORTAGES OF SKILLED NAVY PERSONNEL HAVE RESULTED IN INSUFFICIENT MANNING LEVELS FOR BOTH THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC FLEETS TO MEET READINESS REQUIREMENTS; B. THE HIGH TEMPO OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA REDUCED FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FLEET OPERATIONS, REQUIRING DEFERRAL OF ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE; C. THIS COMBINATION OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL DEFICIENCIES CAN BE OFFSET BY ELIMINATING OLDER SHIPS, SCHEDULED TO DROP FROM SECRET

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THE FY 74 PROGRAMMED FORCE, AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO KEEP REMAINING SHIPS AT ADEQUATE MANNING LEVELS, CONCENTRATE SCARCE FUNDS ON ORDERLY OVERHAULS, AND READY SHIPS AND THEIR CREWS FOR EXTENDED DEPLOYMENTS.

5. AFTER YOU TALK WITH LUNS, WASHINGTON WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING TIMING, SEQUENCING AND FORA

FOR CARRYING OUT THE CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO. WE HOPE TO
MOVE AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE WITH A MINIMUM OF
POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS; REGRETFULLY, PRACTICAL CONSIDER-
ATIONS ARE COMPELLING. RUSH

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